

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2 and 9 without prejudice or disclaimer, and amend claims 1, 3, 5-6 and 8 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A film comprising at least a multivalent metal salt of a polycarboxylate-based polymer (A), and a multivalent metal in an amount which is in a range of 1 to 5 chemical equivalents relative to all the carboxyl groups contained in the polycarboxylate-based polymer (A),
wherein [[the]] a density of the film is in a range of not lower than 1.80 to 2.89 g/cm³,
wherein a thickness of the film is in a range of 0.001 um to 1 mm,
wherein [[the]] a surface ratio α [the peak surface S₁(3700 to 2500 cm⁻¹)/[[the]] a peak surface S₂(1800 to 1500 cm⁻¹)] of an infrared absorption spectrum of the film is not larger than 2.5, and
wherein [[the]] a peak ratio β [the peak A₁(1560 cm⁻¹)/the peak A₂(1700 cm⁻¹)] of the infrared absorption spectrum is not smaller than 1.2.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The film according to claim 1, wherein the polycarboxylate-based polymer (A) is any one of a homopolymer, a copolymer, and a mixture of the homopolymer and [[the]] the copolymer, which contains at least one type of polymerizable monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, maleic acid and methacrylic acid.
4. (Previously Presented) The film according to claim 1, wherein the multivalent metal is a divalent metal.
5. (Currently Amended) The film according to claim 1, wherein [[the]] a water vapor permeability of the film is not larger than 15 g/m²·day (at 40°C at a relative humidity of 90%).

6. (Previously Presented) The film according to claim 1, wherein [[the]] an oxygen permeability of the film is not larger than $1000 \text{ cm}^3(\text{STP})/(\text{m}^2 \cdot \text{day} \cdot \text{MPa})$ (at 30°C at a relative humidity of 80%).
7. (Previously Presented) A laminate comprising the film according to claim 1 and a substrate, wherein the film is arranged on at least one surface of the substrate.
8. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing a film, in which [[the]]a surface ratio α [the peak surface $S_1(3700 \text{ to } 2500 \text{ cm}^{-1})/[[\text{the}]]\text{a}$ peak surface $S_2(1800 \text{ to } 1500 \text{ cm}^{-1})]$ of an infrared absorption spectrum of the film is not larger than 2.5, [[the]]a peak ratio β [the peak $A_1(1560 \text{ cm}^{-1})/\text{the peak } A_2(1700 \text{ cm}^{-1})]$ of the infrared absorption spectrum of the film is not smaller than 1.2, and [[the]]a density of the film is in a range of not lower than 1.80 to 2.89 g/cm³, a thickness of the film is in a range of 0.001 um to 1 mm, the method comprising the steps of:

applying, to a substrate, any one of a solution and a dispersant (coating liquid) of a mixture containing a polycarboxylate-based polymer (A), a multivalent metal compound (B) in an amount which is in a range of 1 to 5 chemical equivalents relative to all the carboxyl groups contained in the polycarboxylate-based polymer (A), any one of a volatile base (C) and an acid (D), and a solvent;

thus forming a film; and

thereafter treating the film with heat at a temperature in a range of 60°C to 400°C while being putted together with the substrate or while being separated from the substrate.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a film according to claim 8, wherein the polycarboxylate-based polymer (A) is any one of a homopolymer, a copolymer, and a mixture of the homopolymer and the copolymer, which contains at least one type of polymerizable monomer selected from the group consisting of acrylic acid, maleic acid and methacrylic acid.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of manufacturing a film according to claims 8, wherein the multivalent metal compound (B) is a divalent metal compound.